



Celebrating Outstanding Contributions in Conservation

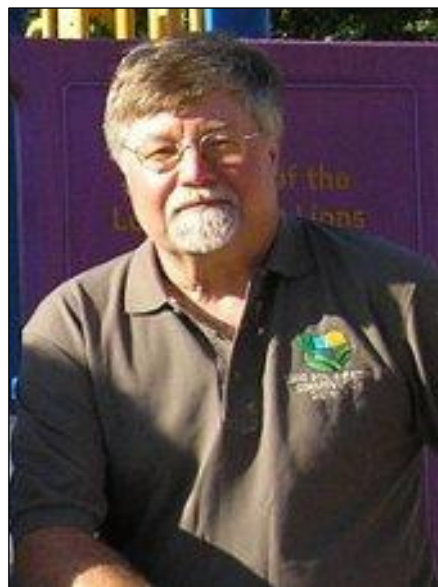
2012 Outstanding District Employee of the Year

December 2012

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to announce **Greg Ostrowski**, Todd Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Technician, as the 2012 Outstanding SWCD Employee of the Year.

Greg's work with Todd SWCD focuses on agriculture, forestry, wildlife, grazing, and natural lands protection and restoration. He works with farmers of both large and small scale operations, conventional and organic farmers, absentee landowners, and partner groups throughout the county. As Tim Stieber, Todd County SWCD Division Director noted, "Driving through the county, evidence of Greg's work is everywhere. Todd's willingness to get involved and get projects completed on time and on budget has led to a long list of accomplishments," explained Stieber.

In 2012, Greg used his extensive field experience, persistence, and oversight on two key conservation projects: the Motley Stream Restoration Project and the 210th Street Projects. Greg completed over 40 forfeited lands evaluations this spring, 70 field status reviews this fall, and over 400 field site visits during 2012. Greg is part of several planning efforts and is the SWCD representative on the Sauk River Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee and the liaison to USDA. His working knowledge of projects and programs, along with his efforts to establish and maintain relationships with landowners has been an enormous asset to Todd County.



Greg Ostrowski, Todd SWCD

Todd's skills have been noticed by partners as well. "Greg has an innate ability to relay difficult information and to handle controversial and heated situations in a respectful manner while upholding our conservation standards," says Russell Kleinschmidt, Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist. "If you have been lucky enough to work side-by-side with Greg, you know he is well respected. I don't say this without serious thought. Greg is willing to listen to people first, evaluate the issue at hand and deliver multiple alternatives to consider. He takes this a step further and will challenge incorrect beliefs or ideas that may not be good for the environment or stewardship of our resources in the long term."

BWSR awards the Outstanding District Employee of the Year at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual convention in December 2012. John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, commented, "Greg continues the long line of outstanding service to conservation in Minnesota, and we want to acknowledge and celebrate his outstanding contributions to soil and water conservation." Congratulations Greg!

*Note: Greg was unable to attend the MASWCD ceremony – so it was recorded for him!
Check out the video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtkGihALzOA*